

# The Arlington Forester

Vol. 63, Number 2

Arlington, Virginia

October 2021



## Hybrid AFCA Meeting—Food Waste Composting



AFCA invites you to join our monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 20, at 7 p.m. You have two options. You can join us in person in the Hickory Room at the Lubber Run Community Center (bring your mask); or you can join the meeting through Zoom.

We will discuss Arlington's new program for food waste composting. Our speaker will be Liz Crowther, a recycling outreach specialist for Arlington County.

To join the Zoom meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20: <https://tinyurl.com/6k8pzp67>. (If you have never used Zoom, you can view a short tutorial at [zoom.us/resources](https://zoom.us/resources) by clicking on Joining & Configuring Audio/Video.) Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting number 852 3800 9693 and passcode 064256. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:50 p.m.

## Call for Dues



Your annual AFCA dues help get this newsletter delivered to your door as a service to you and the entire neighborhood. Dues also pay for tree grants to residents and donations to our neighborhood schools. Dues support the AFCA website ([www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)), which contains a detailed neighborhood map, a history of Arlington Forest, back issues of this newsletter, and more.

COVID has limited AFCA's ability to raise funds in other ways, so please pay your dues today. You can pay online through the AFCA website or clip out the coupon on this page and deliver it with a \$10 check to your section representative. Add an optional donation if you can—every little bit helps! If you include your email address, you will be added to the AFCA listserv, which sends a few messages per month with news of neighborhood interest.

## AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this cutout and your check payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section representative.

*Greenbrier:* Tom Smialowicz, 26 N. Granada St. 22203

*Northside:* Joel Yudken, 104 N. Columbus St. 22203

*Southside:* Sean Lyons, 34 S. Park Dr. 22204

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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AFCA Hybrid Meeting 7 p.m. **October 20**

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*The Arlington Forester* is the official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, VA. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the residents of Arlington Forest, the *Forester* welcomes articles, newsbits, letters, and photos focusing on noncommercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sep to Nov and Jan to May). The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—less, if you include a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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## AFCA September 2021 Meeting

On September 14, 2021, AFCA Northside Vice President Joel Yudken hosted a hybrid AFCA meeting with more than more than 30 participants, either in person or by phone and video. The participants in person, social distanced and wearing masks, met in one of the rooms at the Lubber Run Community Center, where residents could also participate through Zoom.

The hybrid meeting was on a trial basis. Despite the glitches that might be expected, participants agreed that the meeting was successful enough for the hybrid format to continue. One issue was that participants through Zoom could neither see nor hear anyone in the room who wasn't standing at the podium. The community center might have technology to make that possible.

Liz Kauffman and Hutch Brown presented the revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan for a vote. Most Arlington neighborhoods have prepared neighborhood conservation plans through the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Program. The plans contain recommendations that can lead to county funding for neighborhood projects, such as installing the four neighborhood signs for Arlington Forest.

The last plan for Arlington Forest was completed in 1991, so a revision was due. Meeting participants approved the plan, which now goes to the county for approval. The next step is presenting the revised plan, as approved by the neighborhood, to county officials in November. If all goes well, the plan will be published and posted online early next year. You can find the near-final version, with a host of illustrations by Foresters Dan Brown and David Howell, posted on the AFCA website.

Susan Graham, who tends her wonderful garden of native plants in Greenbrier, gave a presentation on the value of going native in your yard, even if only in one small part. Our native insects rely on native plants to thrive, and our native birds depend on those insects to feed their chicks: no native plants, no insects, no birds. Much of her presentation is contained in the article she published in the September 2021 issue of *The Arlington Forester*, which you can find on the AFCA website.

### Faces of the Forest:

### Tell Us About Someone You Know!

With well over 800 households, Arlington Forest has residents known for their accomplishments, whether in our neighborhood or in their careers. Tell us about a Forester you know! Do it in an interview or write a story (with your subject's permission, of course)—or tell us about someone from the past. Send your writeup of 400 words or less with a photo (if possible) to Hutch Brown at [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org). Questions? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.

# Homegrown National Park: Putting Arlington Forest on the Map

By Cheryl Roesel



In September's *Arlington Forester*, Susan Graham cited "Homegrown National Park," the brainchild of Douglas Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. It's a powerful concept: anyone with a bit of land or even just a balcony can help regenerate biodiversity.

Even the casual gardener might have noticed recent articles (even in unexpected places, like the *Wall Street Journal* (8/27/21)) extolling the virtues of reducing lawn and planting native species. The articles are responding to dire headlines: North American bird populations down by nearly 3 billion, declines in terrestrial insects (an "insect apocalypse")—tough stuff.

But planting natives is simple, and some in our neighborhood have taken it to heart. We're busy providing the plants essential to local pollinators, other beneficial insects, and birds throughout their life cycles. The focus is on plants native to our area, the ones of greatest value to wildlife.

The Homegrown National Park website shows an interactive map. It charts individual contributions by state, county, and zip code (but not by street address to protect privacy). The project is active in all

50 states. Arlington County has 31 contributors in seven zip codes, with 4 contributors in 22203 alone.

Anyone who already has native plants in the yard or adds them (the map's goal) can contribute to the map. Starting small is fine. Many yards in Arlington Forest already have perennials, shrubs, and trees native to Virginia. The oaks, river birches, American hornbeams, red maples, and other native trees that put the "forest" in Arlington Forest give those neighbors a head start. Plenty of resources are available. Especially useful are the Virginia Native Plant Society (vnps.org) and Plant NOVA Natives (plantnovanatives.org), which has a great downloadable guide to native plants for northern Virginia with recommendations for sun, shade, wet soil, dry soil, and plant type (tree, shrub, perennial, and so on).

Ready to get on the map? Navigate to the Homegrown National Park homepage at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>. Click the "Map" button at the upper right corner. From the map page, click "Get on the Map!" in the top navigation bar and create a new account. (A PDF version of instructions to get on the map is available by clicking "Map Hub" and scrolling down to the "easy steps to view the map & get on the map" link.)

For user type, I chose "Individual." The rest is basic: name, email, country, state, county, zip code. Once the account is established, record the approximate date and planting size (in square feet, yards, or meters) of your new or existing native planting. Plant lists are not required, only the approximate size and date of your plantings. An option is to add a personal planting goal (size of the area you'd like to plant in natives). The map page also allows you to explore state data.

The next time you log in, you can add more plantings as you add area or edit your existing plantings by clicking the pencil icon in the top left corner of the record for the planting you wish to update. You'll see a dashboard if you've created a personal planting goal, along with community statistics for Arlington.

We can do this!



# Missing Middle Housing Study: Phase 1 Report



Townhouses in Bluemont

The Missing Middle Housing Study, initiated by Arlington County in 2019, focuses on “increasing housing supply and housing choice as a land use tool to meet Arlington’s housing needs,” according to the recently released report on phase 1 of the study (“Expanding Housing Choice,” online at Missing Middle Housing Study). “Middle housing” comprises duplexes, townhouses, and other kinds of multifamily housing intermediate between the single-family detached homes in Arlington Forest and the high-rise apartment buildings in Ballston.

The study has three phases, with phase 1 completed in summer 2021. Its purpose was “to build a shared understanding of the problem.” The problem, according to the phase 1 report, is a “housing gap” caused by Arlington’s Zoning Ordinance, which prohibits middle housing construction in most of Arlington. It also “encourages large units that are well beyond the budget of many households in search of housing,” including “many long-time Arlingtonians” and “Arlington’s essential workers.”

According to the report, property owners in neighborhoods like ours (zoned for single-family detached homes)—if allowed—might build middle housing instead of replacing small homes with larger ones, a countywide trend. That would increase housing supply and make housing more affordable and housing availability more equitable in Arlington. Acknowledging community concerns, the report also stresses the importance of “storm-water management, tree conservation and replacement, increased energy efficiency, compatible architectural design and massing, sustainable and biophilic design, and investment in schools and other infrastructure to support growth and change.”

Based on a countywide survey, the report concludes that citizens generally favor more middle housing in Arlington’s neighborhoods, including duplexes, townhouses, triplexes, fourplexes, and buildings with five to eight units, all recommended for further study. Phase 2 will make recommendations on what kinds of middle housing to allow in which Arlington neighborhoods, possibly including Arlington Forest.

## Going Native

By Hutch Brown



Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is an attractive kind of milkweed with orange flowers that does well in sunny spots. Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed to survive: it’s the only plant that monarch caterpillars will eat.

In March of this year, we decided to convert a corner of our frontyard from lawn to native plants, starting with butterfly weed and obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), a species with purple flowers. I planted three milkweeds a few inches tall (bought from Nature by Design in Alexandria).

By September, the milkweeds had become much taller and thicker and were developing seedpods feasted on by red milkweed bugs. I noticed people on the sidewalk stopping to look, and that’s when I saw the monarch caterpillars.

In 6 months, success!



# Citizen Science: Stream Monitoring in Lubber Run

By Hutch Brown

On October 2, Arlington County volunteers, including neighbors from Arlington Forest and Buckingham, sampled Lubber Run for insects and other animals living underwater in the streambed. What they found lets the county assess the health of the stream.

The volunteers sample the stream three times a year, each time using standard techniques in the same stretch of stream near the Lubber Run pavilion. They use nets to capture “benthic macroinvertebrates,” spineless critters (invertebrates) that are visible to the naked eye (macro) and live on rocks and gravels in the streambed (benthic). The monitors then identify and count a representative sample before releasing the critters unharmed back into the creek.

The Lubber Run sample typically includes lots of midges and mayflies,



*Typical mayfly in Lubber Run*



which spend much of their lives underwater before emerging from the stream to reproduce as flying insects. The monitors also find caddisflies, black flies, flatworms, aquatic worms, and other species that tolerate degraded stream conditions. Training for volunteers includes opportunities to monitor a “reference stream” in Fairfax. Though smaller than Lubber Run, the creek is in much better condition, with sensitive species like stoneflies not found in our local creeks.

Stream monitoring is a great way of contributing to citizen science. It’s also an opportunity, a few times each year, to spend a couple of hours outdoors in the woods along a pleasant stream. You can find out more about the program online at Arlington County Stream Monitoring.

All over North America we are seeing a shift in the real estate market, and over the course of the summer we saw an adjustment. Now it’s not a correction or a slowdown since change in the real estate market happens gradually. We are seeing an increase in the number of homes available for buyers and noticing that price reductions are on the rise. In some areas there are more homes coming on the market that are outpacing the number of homes that are selling. Days on market for homes in the recent weeks have slightly increased from 6 or 7 days to 13 to 14 days, which is a 50% increase. The September market was more active than August. There is great momentum with buyer activity and sales, and it’s still competitive in favor of the seller.

So, what does this mean for you as a potential buyer or seller? Let’s put things in perspective – from April 2020 to April 2021 we saw a 16.8% increase in home prices, which is unprecedented nationally. There are certain markets that realized

20% or more, which is unsustainable. Experts project a 7 to 8% appreciation in 2022, which is well above a normal market of 3%. Days on market are still well below what a normal market is.

Prices aren’t going backward, it’s just the level of appreciation that will slow down. It’s still a fast market and remains competitive, it’s just a little bit slower than earlier this year.

Here’s a factor to consider – interest rates are predicted to increase towards the end of this year and the beginning of next year. Every buyer needs to know that for every 1% in a rate increase, they lose 10% of their purchasing power. For an entry level home priced at \$400K, a 1% rate increase would mean affordability at a \$360K price.

***Are you living in your ideal home now?*** If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I’m glad to help you research and discuss options. Put my 36 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!



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# Native Grasses for Our Yards



*Tired of that same old lawn grass? Plant NOVA Natives has some ideas.*

Lawns are not the only places for grasses in our landscapes, and many species are available besides European turf grass. Grasses native to our region add beauty and texture to our gardens and provide multiple environmental benefits. Most plants in a natural meadow in our area are native grasses, with colorful flowers tucked in between.

This class of plants includes not only true grasses (which tend to be sun-loving) but also sedges (often shade-loving) and rushes. They can range from tiny to gigantic in size. Clumps of taller grasses provide structural interest as well as motion and a rustling sound from the wind; shorter grasses work as groundcovers. Some are evergreen, and all provide winter interest and seeds for birds.

In shady areas with minimal foot traffic, some native grasses can substitute for conventional lawns, but you can't just throw down seeds. You have to place a lot of little plants at 8- to 10-inch intervals and give them a good deal of attention during establishment. Deep soil amendment is critical on a typical compacted former lawn that lacks good nutrition and might have alkaline soil. It can take a few years for such lawns to get established.

Native grasses play a critical role in the ecosystem. The roots are deeper than for European turf grass and do a better job of erosion control, breaking up hard soil and capturing stormwater and carbon. Their dense root structures create a barrier to the spread of aggressive plants, sheltering pockets where more delicate plants can live. They host plants for many butterflies, skippers, moths, and other insects, and they offer food, nesting material, and cover for birds and other wildlife.

Several native grasses used as ornamentals are available in conventional nurseries, including the spectacular pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergii capillaris*). (Be careful where you plant it, though—it needs good drainage!) Others can be purchased at a nursery that specializes in native plants. For details, check out the Plant NOVA Natives website.

# Plant a Tree in Your Yard

Help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest! Fall is the perfect time to plant. If you have lost a tree or want to add a new one, you can get financial assistance.

**AFCA Tree Grant Program:** AFCA provides up to \$125 to help cover the cost of buying and planting a canopy tree (including delivery). You can qualify for grants on up to two trees, with various native trees to choose from. To qualify, all you need is to be paid up on your 2021–22 AFCA dues. For the application form, go to [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) and click on the AFCA tab. Act now—grants are limited.

**Arlington Tree Distribution Program:** Arlington County is giving away 500 young native trees this fall. The trees, 2 to 4 feet in size, come in 2-gallon containers. Register for your free tree online at <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree/> beginning on September 7 and pick up your tree in late October.

**Tree Canopy Fund:** Through a county program administered by EcoAction Arlington, you can get a native tree planted on your property at no cost to you. You can choose from various trees, both large and small. The application deadline for spring planting is in January, with the form posted this fall. For more information, check out EcoAction Arlington Tree Canopy Fund.



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# Want to See a Mature American Chestnut?

By Hutch Brown

I recently saw something I never thought I would see: a mature American chestnut that flowers in spring and bears nuts in fall, with thorny husks on the ground to prove it. Several big chestnuts are just minutes away in Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington.

The American chestnut was once a major forest tree in our area. The white flowers in spring brightened landscapes, and both wildlife and people feasted on the nuts in fall. But the chestnuts were infected by a fungal disease accidentally brought from Europe. By the 1950s, the chestnut blight had killed almost all of the roughly 4 billion mature trees throughout their range.

Chestnut continues to sprout from old rootstocks, so you can occasionally find shoots in our local parks. But when the stem gets big enough, the bark fractures and the blight gets in, killing the tree back to its roots. A few blight-resistant mature trees survive across the tree's former range, although I knew of none in our area—until recently.



One of the benefits of volunteering for programs like Arlington Regional Master Naturalists or Tree Stewards is the opportunity for outdoor discovery. A classmate told me of a mature chestnut at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, so I went to the nature center there and asked. Someone showed me a large old chestnut, mostly dead but with vigorous sprouts from its roots more than 15 feet tall.

Even more impressive were three younger chestnuts nearby, all mature canopy trees up to 50 or 60 feet tall. I first visited in winter, so no leaves were visible, but ample chestnut husks on the ground betokened spring flowering and fall fruiting. And when I went back in spring, the emerging leaves were a dead giveaway of American chestnut.

So if you want to glimpse a lost jewel of our ancestral forests, just go to Potomac Overlook Regional Park and ask at the nature center for the chestnuts. They will gladly show you.



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# Native Plant Landscaping: Three Factors for Success

*It's not too soon to start thinking about spring gardening. These pieces are adapted from a Plant NOVA Natives newsletter.*

If you want to help the birds and butterflies, a few design concepts can help make the difference between a random collection of native plants and a beautiful but manageable landscape that supports our local ecosystem.

First, basic design principles apply to any garden, and the human eye seeks meaning and a place to rest. You can help by adding repetition, lines, and focal points using plants and objects such as pots, walkways, or benches. Since most plants only bloom for a short while, choose plants with contrasting size, form, and foliage, not just interesting flower colors.

Second, maintenance is key. Whether you are allergic to weeding or find it relaxing, no one has infinite time, so start small when planting new areas. For maximum ecological benefit with minimum work, simply add a small grove of native trees or swap out nonnative shrubs for native ones. Gardening in the shade is always easier, and weeds grow faster in the sun.

Third, consider the needs of the critters you are trying to help. For example, the more plant diversity, the more biodiversity in general. Clusters of the same plant will increase the foraging efficiency of bees, and diversity of plant height is important from the ground into the tree canopy for critters like birds that nest at different levels. The closer you come to reproducing the original plant communities, the you will recreate a functioning local ecosystem.

## Saving Neighborhood Trees

Trees attract many residents to neighborhoods like ours, but research by the U.S. Forest Service shows rising impervious surfaces and declining tree cover in urban areas. In neighboring Glencarlyn, worried about tree loss, residents formed a neighborhood tree committee and held a "tree tour" in 2019 to teach tree care, such as cutting back English

ivy, which can choke a tree. Residents also appealed to developers, telling them that "we don't want to live in a neighborhood without mature trees."

If want to join a tree committee for Arlington Forest and help to organize a neighborhood "tree tour," contact Jan Hull at [jkh999@verizon.net](mailto:jkh999@verizon.net). You can find a story about the Glencarlyn committee online at Washington Post Glencarlyn Tree Tour.



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## And the Winner Is...

I hope everyone in the Forest had a great summer. Ours was filled with friends, a few short trips, and lots of time at the AFC pool. Another noteworthy moment, I was pleased to be honored with The Arlie for Best Realtor. Other past Arlie winners include Sandra Bullock, Katie Couric, and John Glenn (though they won for Favorite Notable Resident). I look forward to seeing them all on the red carpet!



Huge thanks to all my gracious clients who made this possible!



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.



## Parks Update

### Toppled Trees

Torrential rains in September toppled two sizable oaks over Lubber Run and the unpaved trail below Greenbrier. Both trees, a chestnut oak and a white oak, were growing in a gulley fed by stormwater runoff. High winds apparently uprooted the trees in soils saturated by flooding. As they fell, the trees also took down the top of a smaller hickory.

### Oak Decline

Lubber Run Park has dozens of oaks and other trees that are dead or showing dieback. Some tree mortality is normal in nature, but the extent of the dieback suggests the lingering effects of oak decline in our neighborhood since July 2019.

### Cicada Damage

Long after the 17-year cicadas vanished in July, some trees are still showing “flags”—hanging branchlets with dead leaves. The cicadas caused the damage by laying eggs under the bark, and the small branches can take months to weaken and die.

### Deer Survey

White-tailed deer have reoccupied habitats in Arlington County in the last 20 years. Without predators such as wolves and cougars to check population levels, deer can overpopulate our neighborhood parks and overbrowse the woods. Arlington County conducted a drone survey of deer populations in spring 2021. The results should soon be online.

### Nature/History Events

Arlington County parks feature nature and history walks and other events for kids, teens—people of all ages. You can see fall colors or learn about owls or the Civil War and more. Many activities are at the Long Branch Nature Center in Glencarlyn Park. For a list of activities this fall, go to Arlington Nature and History Events.

### Spotted Lanternflies



The spotted lanternfly, an invasive species from Asia, has been detected in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties. Spotted lanternflies can damage crops and trees in our area. From September until the first frost, adults tend to swarm near ailanthus (tree of heaven), their preferred host. If you see them, please report them to the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation.

## County News



### New County Logo

The Arlington County Board voted to replace the old Arlington logo based on Arlington House (the slave labor plantation belonging to Confederate General Robert E. Lee) with a new logo after receiving more than 400 design submissions and 29,000 responses over two rounds of community voting. The new logo represents Arlington’s close relationship with the District of Columbia and Alexandria; it reflects how the county was formed and suggests its Potomac River border on the east.

### Arlington County Fair

The county is considering relocating the fair from Thomas Jefferson Park, where it has been held for 45 years, to Long Bridge Park beginning next year. You can find out more online at Arlington County Fair Relocation.



### COVID Information

Arlington has high vaccination rates, but another COVID outbreak has been underway since July. For more information, go online to Arlington COVID-19 Data Dashboards. Find out how to get tested for COVID at Arlington County COVID Testing. For information on COVID vaccinations, including booster shots, go to Arlington County COVID Vaccines.

### Missing Middle Housing Study

Arlington County has launched a multiyear initiative to gain public support for building “missing middle housing”—such as duplexes and townhouses—in neighborhoods currently zoned for single-family detached homes.

- Phase 1 (fall 2020–spring 2021): “Developing a common understanding”—closed. Results are online (Expanding Housing Choice: The Missing Middle Housing Study Phase I Report).
- Phase 2 (October 2021–June 2022): Recommendations for new housing types and locations.
- Phase 3 (July 2022–December 2022): “Consideration of how to implement the conclusions of the previous phases, possibly leading to recommendations to amend the Zoning Ordinance.”

# Around the Forest

## Stream Cleanup

On September 11, as they have done at least annually since 2008, neighbors primarily from the 100 block of North Granada Street beautified the section of Four Mile Run just north and south of the Arlington Boulevard overpass. Pictured are some of the volunteers. They filled 10 trash bags with trash from the stream banks, the WO&D trail, and adjacent parkland.



## Scarecrow Making

Bring your preteen child to the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on Saturday, October 16, between 1 and 3 p.m. to make a frontyard Halloween strawman! Children of any age may participate, but parents/guardians will need to assist younger children. Bring a pair of bluejeans, a long-sleeve button-up shirt, and a pair of panty hose or tights. AFCA will provide the straw stuffing and safety pins to connect the pants and shirt. Advance registration is required by emailing John Naland at [na-landfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:na-landfamily@yahoo.com). Cost \$5 per scarecrow.

## Kids for Hire

This newsletter feature helps neighbors find local help and support local kids. But kids do move on. If your child no longer belongs on the list, please let the editor know at [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org) to avoid confusion and make space for others.

## Lubber Run Community Center

Just as a reminder, the hours of operation are now Mon–Fri, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sat, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; and Sun, 1 p.m.–7 p.m. The center has a preschool, senior center, gymnasium, fitness center; an indoor track; and a multiuse court for volleyball, pickleball, and basketball. A customer service center offers class registration, facility reservations, and more. Parking is free for the first 4 hours.

## Northside Traffic Circles

Do you take care of a traffic circle? Arlington Forest has several traffic circles on 2nd Street North in Northside, plus a triangle near the end of North Columbus Street. Generous neighbors have volunteered their time to care for the vegetation. ***If you are one of the volunteers, thank you!*** Could you please let AFCA President Esther Bowring know who you are at [afcaprez@gmail.com](mailto:afcaprez@gmail.com)?

## Noise Levels

Itching to mow that overgrown lawn? Great, but remember that noise levels in Arlington are restricted. On weekends and legal holidays, no loud noise is allowed before 10 a.m. or after 9 p.m.; on weekdays, it's before 7 a.m. and after 9 p.m. And if you see your neighbors dodging vegetation or ducking under branches in front of your house, it's time to get out the trimmers. Arlington statutes require that too.

## November Elections Coming Up!

The election date is November 2; on the ballot are Governor and other statewide and countywide offices. Early voting is already open at Courthouse, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, ground floor. The deadline for applying for a mail-in ballot is October 22. Just go to <https://bit.ly/VoteArlington> to request a ballot (remember: you will need a witness).

## Volunteer Need!

This newsletter offsets most of its production costs through advertising. We need a volunteer to manage the billing for about 15 to 20 advertisers. You would work with the newsletter editor and the AFCA treasurer, spending about 4 hours on billing twice a year. If you are interested, please contact Treasurer Jeff Horwitz at [afca@ironstate.me](mailto:afca@ironstate.me), and thanks!

## Neighborhood Conservation Plan

The plan (online on the AFCA website) was approved at the September AFCA meeting. The next step is review and approval by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. The Neighborhood Conservation Staff Director expects to put the plan on the agenda for the committee at a meeting on November 11 or December 9. Then the plan will undergo review by the Arlington County Planning Commission before going to the County Board for approval.

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## AFCA Meetings

**October 20, 2021:** Food composting update

**November 17, 2021:** Neighborhood crime update and restorative justice

**January 19, 2022:** Solar panel installation

**February 16, 2022:** Missing Middle Housing Study update

**March 16, 2022:** Q&A with School Board representative (tentative)

**April 20, 2022:** Q&A with County Board representative (tentative)

**May 18, 2022:** Neighborhood picnic (tentative)

### VA Election on November 2, 2021 Are you registered yet?

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<http://bit.ly/VoteArlington>

## Community Calendar



The coronavirus pandemic has forced AFCA to limit the number of community events, with some down as tentative—to be held if conditions allow.

**Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m.

**Lubber Run Farmers' Market:** Saturday mornings at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot; social distancing and masking encouraged.

**Scarecrow Making:** October 16 (register with John Naland at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com))

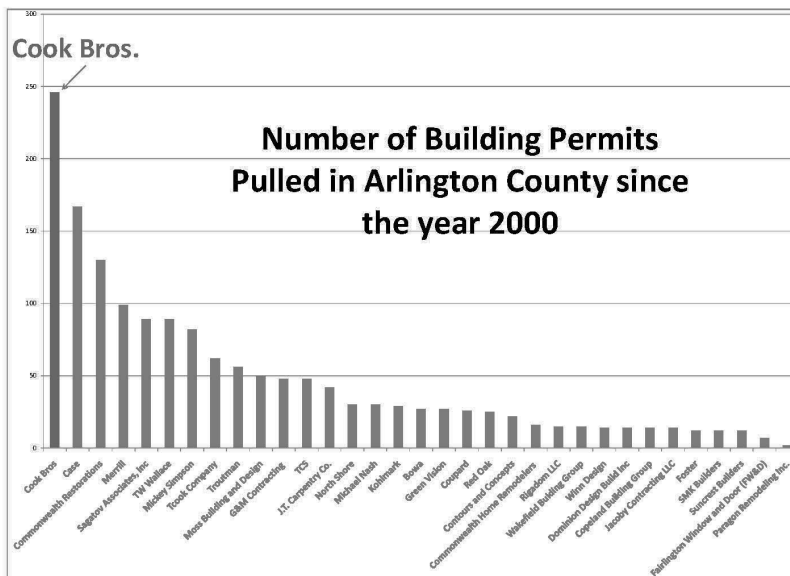
**General Election:** November 2; Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates (45th, 47th, 48th, and 49th Districts), County Board (1 seat), and School Board (1 seat)

**Home and Garden Tour:** May 2022 (tentative)

**Annual AFCA Picnic:** May 18, 2022 (tentative)

**Annual Yard Sale:** May 2022 (tentative)

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# Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

It's hard to believe students have been back to school for well over a month now. We were excited that so many families could attend the Back to School Picnic at Barcroft in September.

On September 25, we also continued two great Barcroft traditions with the help of students, parents, staff, and volunteers as we cleaned up the grounds and garden beds around the school and participated in Chalk for Peace, a worldwide children's art event highlighting each artist's vision for peace.

Upcoming events at Barcroft include a restaurant night fundraiser on October 6 at Chipotle, the annual Halloween Parade on October 29 in the neighborhood around the school, the PTA Election Day Bake Sale



on November 2 at the school, and outdoor movie night on November 12. If you want to stay up to date on Barcroft happenings, you can follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA.

If you participate in the Harris Teeter's VIC reward card program to support Barcroft, don't forget to relink your card every year (Barcroft's code is 4238).





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# Barrett School News

By Colleen Nguyen

We're more than a month into the school year, and it's amazing how normal so much feels—kids running around the playground during recess, physical education in the gymnasium (rather than in my living room), raising their hands instead of unmuting. Although many things are still different, some better (outdoor lunch) and some less fun (masks), the students, staff, and families are really feeling that "Barrett community" feel.


The Barrett PTA hosted our annual ice cream social in September, and it was a big hit, as always. A local ice cream shop brought some delicious ice cream to scoop for us, while kids played on the playground into the evening and families caught up with each other after summer break. We were grateful Barrett's APS School Board member liaison, Reid Goldstein, came to the event, but everyone was even more excited for a special visit by—our mascot, the Barrett tiger! Students are working on naming the mascot in October.


Finally, something we've heard from parents and families is that many want to continue building community, getting to know each other, and working together to support our kids. The PTA and Barrett staff have partnered to start an Engagement Volunteers Committee, bringing the school's Spanish-speaking Friday Volunteers group together with English-speaking families to meet weekly to get to know each other, plan fun events, share our challenges, and brainstorm ways to support each other. The meeting is conducted in English and Spanish, and I'm grateful to the parents who have participated so far. Parents are welcome to join any time!

We continue to be thankful that the Arlington Forest community is so supportive of Barrett and our children, and the neighborhood really steps up to provide when families are in need and to just smile when kids are running around the neighborhood acting like, well, kids. Please contact me at [president@kwbarrettpta.org](mailto:president@kwbarrettpta.org) if you want to help or get involved. You can donate to our PTA at any time at

[kwbarrettpta.memberhub.com/store/items/62593](http://kwbarrettpta.memberhub.com/store/items/62593) and follow us on Twitter at @BPTAE and Facebook.com/barrettpta. Hope to see you around!



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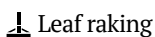
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# Kids for Hire

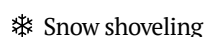
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	Emilie Kluge	emiliekluge@yahoo.com	571-457-1983	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	Tutoring
	Amy Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
	Andrew Rogers	andrewmcyt@gmail.com	703-892-0226	✓	✓							Yardwork
	Caroline Rogers	carolinearogers@verizon.net	703-892-0226	✓	✓		✓					
	Atalie Dempsey	atalie.dempsey@gmail.com	571-317-9216	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
	Evan Dempsey	Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com	703-559-9690	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Anna D'Itri		703-346-3467	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
	Gabriel D'Itri		703-346-3467			✓		✓				Lawn mowing
Greenbrier	Julia Green	joangreen32@gmail.com	703-785-4293	✓	✓				✓		✓	
	Trevor Green	joangreen32@gmail.com	703-785-4293	✓				✓				Lawn mowing
	Charlotte Lawson	CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com	703-933-8880	✓	✓		✓					
	Madeline Lund	madelinelund11@gmail.com	571-447-6968	✓	✓		✓			✓		
	Avery McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	571-225-2484	✓	✓					✓	✓	Weekends only
	Anna McLaughlin	annamc1012@yahoo.com	571-550-1680	✓	✓		✓*		✓		✓	
	Ciara McLaughlin	ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓*			✓	✓	
	Reid Messman		703-469-1988	✓	✓							
	Shea Messman		703-469-1988				✓*					
	Lucas Miller	g.mark.miller1@gmail.com	786-493-3112	✓		✓		✓				Lawn mowing
Northside	Jacob Nadherny	jacob@nadherny.com		✓	✓						✓	
	Matthew Petrucci	tony.petrucci@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓				
	Caulder Pickard	katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Ava Smialowicz	ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com	703-424-0895		✓		✓*					
	Emma Weaver		703-875-8185				✓*					
	Natalie Bryant	sarakatherine75@hotmail.com		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
	Niittisha Choudhary	Niittisha@gmail.com	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓			Tutoring
	Riittisha Choudhary	riittishachoudhary@gmail.com					✓					Tutoring, yardwork
	Tyler Dinan	chrisbettddinan@aol.com	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓				Lawn mowing
	Evan Eng	dcharveydc@yahoo.com	703-861-1890	✓	✓	✓		✓				
	Jeremy Fagen	jeremy.fagen@gmail.com	571-645-3475	✓	✓				✓			
	Annie Madden	Lacrosse.donuts@gmail.com	703-220-3357		✓		✓*					
	Evie Price		240-665-8139	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
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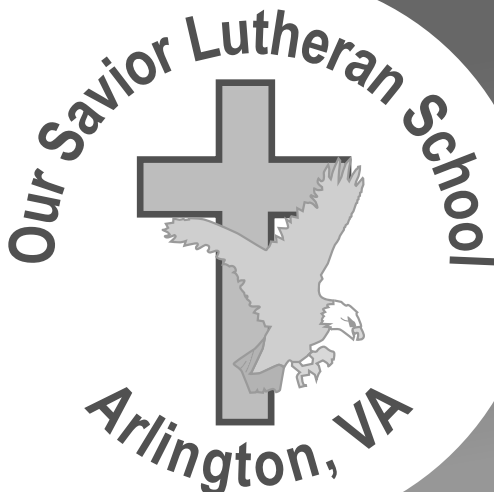
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